

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 04620 240838Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 ACDA-12 IO-13 EB-08
NRC-05 OES-07 SOE-02 DOE-15 CEQ-01 /116 W
-----116803 240846Z /13

O P 240802Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0431
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY PRIORITY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL MADRAS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 4620

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MNUC, ENGR, IN, US
SUBJECT: PARLIAMENTARY DISCUSSION OF TARAPUR SUPPLY

REF: NEW DELHI 4571

1. IN THE DISCUSSION WHICH FOLLOWED THE PRIME MINISTER'S
STATEMENT ON TARAPUR SUPPLY (REFTEL), DESAI STUCK FIRMLY
TO HIS POSITION THAT THE DELAYS IN URANIUM SHIPMENT WERE
DUE TO PROCEDURAL AND NOT POLICY PROBLEMS. HE REJECTED
THE CHARGE MADE BY SPONSORS OF THE CALLING ATTENTION
MOTION THAT THE US HAD ALREADY BROKEN THE TARAPUR AGREEMENT
OR WAS ABOUT TO DO SO. IN DEALING WITH THIS LINE OF
ATTACK, THE PM STATED:

"WE HAVE TAKEN UP THE MATTER WITH THE UNITED STATES
AND WE ARE DOING OUR LEVEL BEST TO SORT OUT THE DIFFI-
CULTIES WHICH ARE NOT QUITE OF OUR CREATION; BUT THEY DID
ARISE FROM THE EXPLOSION THAT WAS MADE HERE THREE OR FOUR
YEARS AGO. I DO NOT SAY, THEREFORE (SIC) THEY WERE
JUSTIFIED IN DOING THIS. THE AGREEMENT DID NOT WARRANT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NEW DE 04620 240838Z

ANY BREAK OF IT BY THE OTHER SIDE. THAT ALSO I HAVE POINTED
OUT. BUT THE POSITION IS THAT WE CANNOT USE ANY OTHER
THING EXCEPT ENRICHED URANIUM IN THIS AND WE ARE BOUND BY
THE AGREEMENT THAT WE CANNOT OBTAIN IT FROM ELSEWHERE AS
LONG AS THEY DO NOT SAY NO. IF THEY SAY: NO, ONCE I
HEAR THAT, THEN ALL WAYS ARE OPEN TO US, EVEN THE PROCESS-
ING OF THE USED THING WILL BE OPEN TO US. THEN WE ARE

NOT BOUND. THEREFORE, WE CAN FIND MANY THINGS. I DO NOT THINK WE SHOULD SAY EVERYTHING AND CREATE MORE DIFFICULTIES."

2. WHEN THE ARGUMENT WAS REITERATED BY CONGRESS (I) LEADER VASANT SATHE, THE PM STATED:

"...THERE IS NOT YET A BREACH OF AGREEMENT. 'NO' IS NOT YET SAID. IT IS ONLY DELAYED. SOME DID COME AND SOME IS GOING TO COME. THAT IS WHAT THEY SAY. THEREFORE, IT IS NOT BROKEN. IF THE AGREEMENT IS BROKEN ON THAT SIDE, WE ARE FREE TO ACT WHATEVER WAY WE LIKE. THERE IS NO BINDING ON US THEN, NO CASE. AND I WILL ACT ON IT MOST CERTAINLY AND QUICKLY. BUT UNTIL THEN, I CANNOT BREAK THE AGREEMENT MYSELF."

3. DESAI TOLD ANOTHER QUESTIONER THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS CERTAINLY THINKING OF THE PROBLEM OF FINDING OTHER WAYS TO MEET THE URANIUM REQUIREMENT, "BUT WHATEVER WE ARE DOING CANNOT BE STATED OPENLY."

4. WHEN MPS EXPRESSED THEIR DISSATISFACTION ABOUT US PROCEDURES, DESAI TOLD THEM THAT "WE CANNOT CHANCE THE SYSTEM IN AMERICA", THAT "WE SHOULD NOT HUSTLE AMERICA." THE USG WAS OBLIGED TO ACT ACCORDING TO ITS OWN PROCEDURES, HE SAID, "JUST AS WE ARE BOUND TO ACT ON OUR PROCEDURES." CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NEW DE 04620 240838Z

(UNFORTUNATELY, SEVERAL MEMBERS SEEMED TO BELIEVE THAT THE INTERVENORS WERE ALSO A SEPARATE USG BODY, SO THAT THE PROCEDURAL DIFFICULTIES MUST HAVE SEEMED TO THEM EVEN MORE FORMIDABLE THAN IS ACTUALLY THE CASE.)

5. ACCUSED BY SATHE OF SUCCUMBING TO PRESSURE, THE PM STATED AMID APPLAUSE FROM ALL SECTIONS OF THE HOUSE:

"WHERE IS THE QUESTION OF SUBMISSION? WE ARE NOT SURRENDERING ANYTHING. YES, IF I HAD AGREED TO SIGN THE (NON-PROLIFERATION) TREATY, I WOULD HAVE GOT IT (ENRICHED URANIUM) IMMEDIATELY -- A COPIOUS SUPPLY. BUT I AM NOT GOING TO DO IT. EVEN IF TARAPUR HAS TO CLOSE, I AM NOT GOING TO DO IT. EVEN IF IT CLOSES, I CANNOT HELP IT. ... I WILL STRAIN EVERY NERVE TO SEE THAT TARAPUR DOES NOT CLOSE. IF THE COST OF IT IS, FOR KEEPING THE SELF-RESPECT OF THIS COUNTRY, TO CLOSE IT, I WILL CLOSE IT WITHOUT HESITATION." SATHE PRONOUNCED HIMSELF SATISFIED.

6. THE DELHI PRESS GAVE THE PARLIAMENTARY DISCUSSION PROMINENT COVERAGE, FOUR OF THE SIX ENGLISH DAILIES REPORTING IN ON THEIR FRONT PAGES. EMPHASES VARIED, WITH

MOST HEADLINING THE PM'S PLEDGE NOT TO SIGN THE NPT
UNDER PRESSURE. THE PM'S INSISTENCE THAT THE US HAD NOT
BROKEN THE AGREEMENT BUT THAT INDIA WOULD BE FREE TO ACT
SHOULD THAT HAPPEN WAS FAIRLY REPORTED.
GOHEEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ACQUISITION, MEETING PROCEEDINGS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, NUCLEAR FUELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NEWDE04620
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780130-0070
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780328/aaaaaxnz.tel
Line Count: 121
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c6f037be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 NEW DELHI 4571
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3212414
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PARLIAMENTARY DISCUSSION OF TARAPUR SUPPLY
TAGS: MNUC, ENRG, IN, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c6f037be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014